REMARKS:

Claims 1-6 and 10-19 are currently being examined, of which claims 1, 12, 16, 18, and 19 have been amended herein. Amendments are supported by the original disclosure. See, for example, pages 13-15 of the specification.

Applicants and Applicants' attorney thank Examiner Kramer for the interview courteously granted November 29, 2005. The special attention the Examiner paid to the instant application is noted with appreciation. Items discussed during the interview include: the Office Action mailed August 19, 2005; the rejection of claims 1-6 and 10-19 under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over USP 6,507,824 (**Yon**) in view of a publication entitled "*How the Internet Works*"; and proposed amendments of claims 1, 12, 16, 18, and 19.

Claims 1-6 and 10-19 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over USP 6,507,824 (**Yon**) in view of a publication entitled "*How the Internet Works*."

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 1 and 12, as amended, have the following characteristics.

i) A customer database which stores user information, comprising user ID for specifying users

of the color-designating server, and use information.

ii) The use information includes requirements relating to items to be colored predetermined in correlation with user ID, and types of resin and dye or pigment which can be used for the requirements.

iii) When the user has been identified, the conditions-designating processing unit transmits the conditions-designating screen to the user terminal.

iv) The conditions-designating screen displays the requirements and the types of resin and dye or pigment, which are stored in the customer database in correlation with the identified user, so that the user can designate conditions data from the requirements and the types of resin and dye or pigment displayed on the conditions-designating screen.

v) The color-designating server further comprises a use data receiving unit which receives, from the user terminal, the conditions data designated by the user.

Because of the combination of the above features (i) to (v), the present invention provides the following procedures:

1. A user inputs a user ID to the color-designating server, and the user is specified by retrieving the user ID from the customer database.

2. When the user has been identified, use information of the user is extracted from the customer database. The use information includes requirements relating to items to be colored

predetermined in correlation with the user ID, and types of resin and dye or pigment which can be used for the requirements.

3. The conditions-designating processing unit generates a conditions-designating screen for displaying the requirements and the types of resin and dye or pigment for the user, and transmits the conditions-designating screen to the user terminal so that the user can designate conditions data from the requirements and the types of resin and dye or pigment displayed on the conditions-designating screen.

4. The use data receiving unit receives from the user terminal the conditions data designated by the user.

5. The color data transmitting unit determines colors which can be matched under the conditions specified by the conditions data by consulting the matchable color database, and transmits a result to the user terminal so that the user can select a color at a user terminal from the colors determined by the color data transmitting unit.

According to the present invention, because the customer database stores use information including requirements relating to items to be colored predetermined in correlation with the user ID and types of resin and dye or pigment which can be used for the requirements, the color-designating server can transmit a conditions-designating screen for displaying the requirements and the types of resin and dye or pigment so that the user can designate conditions data from the requirements and the types of resin and dye or pigment. Therefore, the scope of selection displayed on the

condition-designating screen is restricted to the scope operable for the user, and designation of the requirements and the types of resin and dye or pigment can be performed easily.

FIG. 6 of the present application shows an example of the condition-designating screen produced for a specified user. In this example, requirements correlated with the user ID include molding method ("Inflation" and "T-die"), and use ("shopping bag" and "register bag"), and types of resin are HDPE (high-density polyethylene), LLDPE (linear low-density polyethylene), and LDPE (low-density polyethylene). By displaying this condition-designating screen at the user terminal, the user is allowed to select a specific combination of the above alternatives with simple operations, and the color data transmitting unit can accurately determine colors which can be matched under the specific conditions by consulting the matchable color database.

Colors of plastic products are very difficult to predict. For example, coloring of a plastic bag is affected, in a complicated manner, by various conditions such as the thickness of the plastic bag, resin types, pigment types, forming method of the plastic bag (this especially affects the gloss), and so on. In order to accurately predict the color of a plastic product, designation of detailed requirements are necessary. According to the present invention, designation of detailed requirements for desirable products can be performed by users in a simple and assured manner.

In contrast, **Yon** fails to disclose features (i) to (v). The system of **Yon** is not intended to

utilize use information including requirements relating to items to be colored predetermined in correlation with user ID, and types of resin and dye or pigment which can be used for the requirements.

The Examiner states that the publication "*How the Internet Works*" teaches virtual shopping carts and the carts correspond to a customer database storing user information. However, the virtual shopping carts do not store requirements relating to items to be colored predetermined in correlation with user ID, nor types of resin and dye or pigment which can be used for the requirements. Furthermore, the publication "*How the Internet Works*" fails to describe, teach, or suggest features corresponding to the conditions-designating processing unit, the conditions-designating screen, and the use data receiving unit.

Therefore, even if the disclosure of the publication "*How the Internet Works*" is combined with the disclosure of **Yon**, that combination fails to describe, teach, or suggest claims 1 and 12, as amended, and the claims depending therefrom.

Yon and the publication entitled "*How the Internet Works*", alone or in combination, fail to describe, teach, or suggest the following features set forth in claim 1, as amended: "a customer database which stores user information, comprising user ID for specifying users of the color-designating server, and use information including requirements relating to items to be colored

predetermined in correlation with user ID, and types of resin and dye or pigment which can be used for the requirements; wherein, when the user has been identified, the conditions-designating processing unit transmits the conditions-designating screen to the user terminal; the conditions-designating screen displays the requirements and the types of resin and dye or pigment, which are stored in the customer database in correlation with the identified user, so that the user can designate conditions data from the requirements and the types of resin and dye or pigment displayed on the conditions-designating screen; and the color-designating server further comprises a use data receiving unit which receives, from the user terminal, the conditions data designated by the user", in combination with the other claimed features.

Yon and the publication "*How the Internet Works*", alone or in combination, fail to describe, teach, or suggest the following features set forth in claim 12, as amended: "a customer database which stores user information, comprising user ID for specifying users of the color-designating server, and use information including requirements relating to items to be colored predetermined in correlation with user ID, and types of resin and dye or pigment which can be used for the requirements; and wherein, when the user has been identified, the conditions-designating processing unit transmits the conditions-designating screen to the user terminal; the conditions-designating screen displays the requirements and the types of resin and dye or pigment, which are stored in the customer database in correlation with the identified user, so that the user can designate conditions data from the requirements and the types of resin and dye or pigment displayed on the conditions-

designating screen; and the color-designating server further comprises a use data receiving unit which receives, from the user terminal, the conditions data designated by the user", in combination with the other claimed features.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1 and 12, and all claims depending therefrom, should be withdrawn.

Arguments similar to, or corresponding to, the above arguments can be applied relating to method claims 16, 18, and 19, as amended, and the claims depending therefrom.

Yon and the publication "*How the Internet Works*", alone or in combination, fail to describe, teach, or suggest the following features set forth in claim 16, as amended: "specifying users of the color-designating server by accessing a customer database which stores user information, comprising user ID for specifying users of the color-designating server, and use information including requirements relating to items to be colored, predetermined in correlation with the user ID, and types of resin and dye or pigment which can be used for the requirements; when the user has been identified, transmitting a conditions-designating screen for designating conditions data, required for determining matchable colors, to the user terminal, the conditions-designating screen displays the requirements and the types of resin and dye or pigment, which are stored in the customer data base in correlation with the identified user, so that the user can designate conditions data from the

requirements and the types of resin and dye or pigment displayed on the conditions-designating screen; and determining colors which can be matched under the conditions specified by the conditions data, designated in the conditions-designating screen, by consulting a matchable color database", in combination with the other claimed features.

Yon and the publication "*How the Internet Works*", alone or in combination, fail to describe, teach, or suggest the following features set forth in claim 18, as amended: "specifying users of the color-designating server by accessing a customer database which stores user information, comprising user ID for specifying users of the color-designating server, and use information including requirements relating to items to be colored, predetermined in correlation with the user ID, and types of resin and dye or pigment which can be used for the requirements; when the user has been identified, transmitting by the color-designating server a conditions-designating screen for designating conditions data, required for determining matchable colors, to the user terminal, the conditions-designating screen specifying the requirements and the types of resin and dye or pigment which are stored in the customer data base in correlation with an identified user and were obtained by consulting the customer database; the conditions-designating screen displays the requirements and the types of resin and dye or pigment, which are stored in the customer database in correlation with the identified user, so that the user can designate conditions data from the requirements and the types of resin and dye or pigment displayed on the conditions-designating screen; and when a color has been designated from the matchable colors, and a product in the color has been designated, the

color-designating server receiving designated product data for specifying the color and the product, and order data, from the user terminal; the color-designating server transmitting the designated product data and the order data to the receive-order system", in combination with the other claimed features.

Yon and the publication "*How the Internet Works*", alone or in combination, fail to describe, teach, or suggest the following features set forth in claim 19, as amended: "specifying users of the color-designating server by accessing a customer database which stores user information, comprising user ID for specifying users of the color-designating server, and use information including requirements relating to items to be colored, predetermined in correlation with the user ID, and types of resin and dye or pigment which can be used for the requirements; when the user has been identified, transmitting a conditions-designating screen for designating conditions data, required for determining matchable colors, to the user terminal, the conditions-designating screen displays the requirements and the types of resin and dye or pigment, which are stored in the customer database in correlation with the identified user, so that the user can designate conditions data from the requirements and the types of resin and dye or pigment displayed on the conditions-designating screen; and determining colors which can be matched under the conditions specified by the conditions data, designated in the conditions-designating screen, by consulting a matchable color database", in combination with the other claimed features.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 16, 18, and 19, and all claims depending therefrom, should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, all claims currently being examined are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time, and any other fees which may be due now or in the future with respect to this application, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,
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